

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for considering the present application. In the Office Action dated July 28, 2005, claims 1-41 are pending in the application. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner for a reconsideration.

The present invention relates to an online invention disclosure system 10. Claim 1 is directed to a method of forming an invention disclosure online and includes the steps of forming an invention disclosure online by entering a plurality of selected information portions into a web-based system, after each of the plurality of selected information portions are entered, storing each of the information portions in a central storage location, and allowing access to various users for reviewing the information.

Claim 1 was amended during prosecution to recite that the invention disclosure has selected information portions and that after each of the plurality of selected information portions are entered, each of them are stored in a central storage location.

Claim 17 is a system claim corresponding to the method of claim 1. Claim 17 includes a recitation of a user computer 14, a server 12, and a database 18 coupled to the server 12. The server 12 provides user screens to the users to prompt said users to provide a plurality of disclosure information to the server. The server receives the plurality of disclosure information from the users and stores information in the database after each of the plurality of disclosure information is entered. The sever 12 allows access to the disclosure after storing the plurality of disclosure information within the database.

Claim 23 is similar to claims 1 and 17 with the addition of providing classification information and notifying an evaluator of the classification information.

Claim 37 is a method that allows identification information to be entered into the system and user information is obtained from a central directory system automatically. It should be noted that information portion does not necessarily mean e.g., each digit of an address but may include several pieces of information such as one part of the several parts of a typical disclosure.

Claim 37 stands rejected under 37 U.S.C. §101 because it is believed to be non-statutory in that the steps are manual.

Claim 37 has been amended in line 2 and the last line to reflect that a computer is used in the process. Therefore, Applicants respectfully believe that this rejection has been overcome.

Claim 37 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Line 6 of claim 37 has been amended to reflect that the disclosure is an invention disclosure which is referred to in the previous line. Applicants believe that this amendment overcomes this rejection.

Claims 1-3, 7-9, 17-18, 19-20, 21-23, 24-36, 37-38, and 41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hager* (5,247,661) in view of *Balijepalli* (US2004/0230566).

As mentioned above, claims 1, 17, and 23 each recite a similar step of after each of plurality of selected information is entered, storing each of the plurality of selected information in a central storage location. The Examiner points to Fig. 1, item 14, Col. 3, lines 16-30, for this proposition. Applicants have reviewed this section and can find no teaching or suggestion for this. The Examiner points to item 14, which is described as a storage device that is associated with the individual computer. Even if a central storage location is set forth, no teaching or suggestion is provided for after each of the plurality of selected information portions are entered storing it in a central storage location. This is an important feature since if a connection break happens or during a power outage, the entire disclosure information does not have to be re-entered. The only information that needs to be entered is the information not stored after the last entry. This is particularly suitable for web-based applications where sometimes web-based connections may be broken.

The Examiner cites the *Balijepalli* reference for teaching a central server coupled with a database. However, the *Balijepalli* reference does not teach or suggest an invention disclosure-type system. The *Balijepalli* reference also does not teach after each of the plurality of selected information portions are entered, storing each of the information portions in a central storage location. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the rejection of the above claims.

With respect to claim 37, the Examiner points to Fig. 4a, Col. 6, lines 41-67, for teaching entering identification information. *Hager* does teach entering identification

information. However, the second step of claim 37 states retrieving user information from a directory system in response to the identification information. For this step the Examiner points to Col. 6, lines 15-22, and Fig. 4. Applicants have reviewed this portion of the *Hager* reference and can find no teaching or suggestion therein for such a retrieval. These portions merely refer to automatic distribution of a copy of the disclosure information and providing this information to a disaster recovery site. Claim 37 also recites coupling the user information with the invention disclosure. This user information is retrieved from the directory system. Therefore, this step is also not taught or suggested. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the rejection of claim 37 as well since the *Hager* reference does not teach what the Examiner states.

Claims 4-6, 8, 10-15, 25-35, and 39-40 stand rejected as being unpatentable over *Hager* (5,247,661) in view of *Balijepalli* (US2004/0230566) in view of *Schneider* (5,987,464).

The *Schneider* reference is a method and system for periodically updating data records having an expiry time. No teaching or suggestion is provided in the *Schneider* reference for forming an invention disclosure in an online-type system. The *Schneider* reference is a database with expiry times. Although the Examiner cites various sections, Applicants maintain the *Schneider* system is not an online invention disclosure system. Also, the *Schneider* system does not teach or suggest storing the information after each information is entered. Therefore, because the *Schneider* reference does not overcome the deficiencies of the *Hager* and *Balijepalli* references, Applicants respectfully requests the Examiner for a reconsideration of this rejection as well.

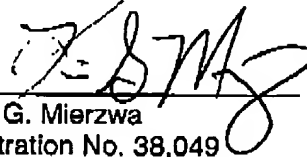
Claims 16 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hager* (5,246,661) in view of *Balijepalli* (US2004/0230566) and further in view of *Rivette* (2003/0046307).

Claims 16 and 36 recite scanning the paper submission into a database. The *Rivette* reference, however, does not teach or suggest the elements missing from the *Hager* reference as recited with respect to claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider this rejection as well.

In light of the above remarks, Applicants submit that all rejections are now overcome and the application is now in condition for allowance and expeditious notice thereof is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments which would place

the application in better condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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